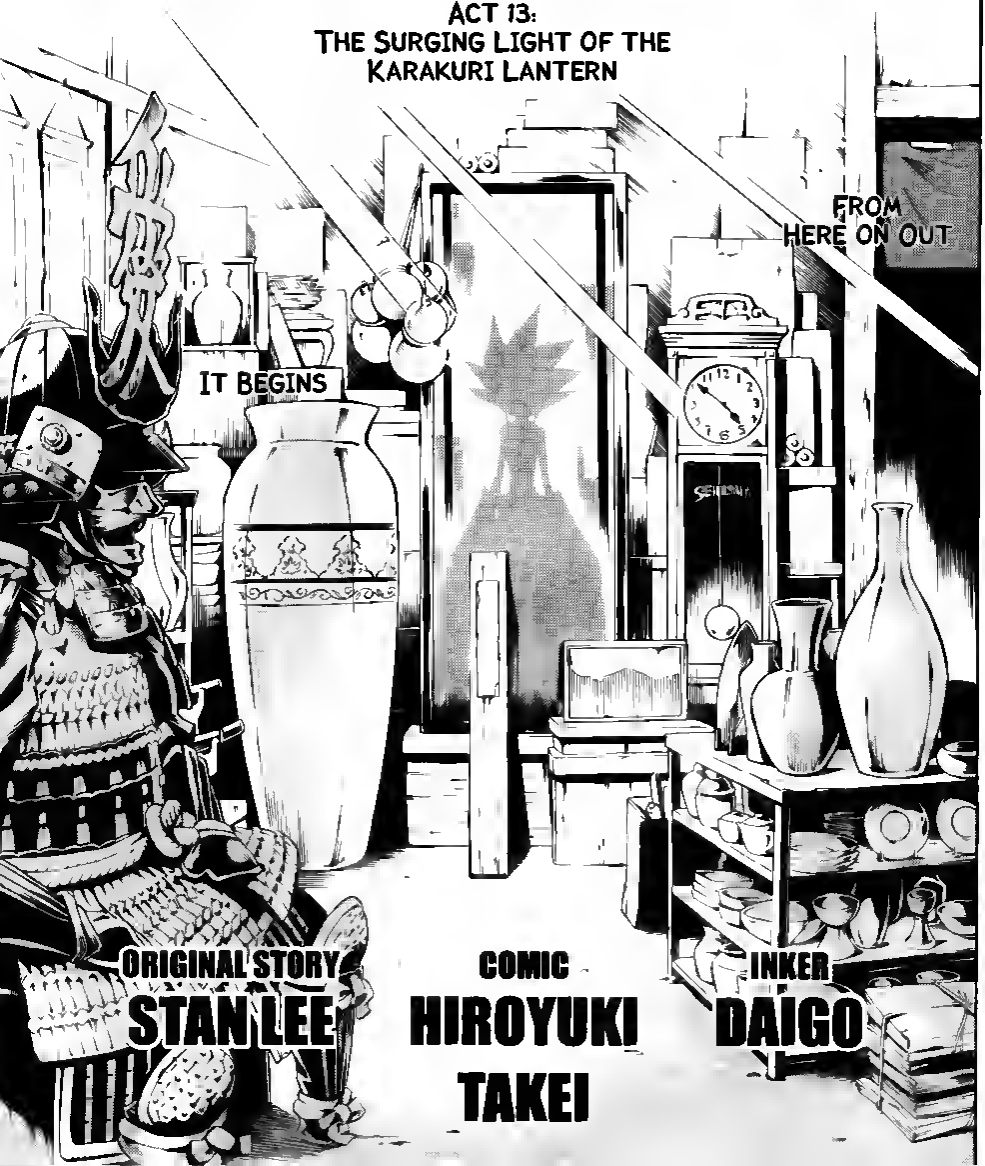
機甲童子 ULTIMO

ACT 13:
THE SURGING LIGHT OF THE KARAKURI LANTERN



ORIGINAL STORY
STAN LEE

COMIC
HIROYUKI TAKEI

INKER
DAIGO

21st century
WESTTOKYO Japan
DCC
THE SAME TOWN(!?) AS ALWAYS!!
WHAT'S UP, RENE? YOU'RE QUITE ENERGETIC THIS MORNING.
AGARI YAMATO (16)
SINCE YOU'RE SO BIG, I RECOGNIZED YOU RIGHT AWAY.
YOU'RE LOOKING QUITE BIG THIS MORNING, LIKE ALWAYS
UWOH!?
GOOD MORNING, YAMATO-KUN.
KODAIRA RENE (16)

YOU WERE REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO GIVING SAYAMA-SAN HER PRESENT AT THE PARTY TONIGHT
YOU WERE SO EXCITED, TOO.
NO. DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT ALREADY, YAMATO-KUN!?
DID SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN TO YOU OR SOMETHING?
WHAT'S WITH THIS SUDDEN FEELING OF DÉJÀVU?
HUH?

GOOD MORNING, YAMATO-KUN.
!
TODAY IS SAYAMA-SAN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY!?
REALLY!?
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE LOOKING A LITTLE UNDER THE WEATHER.
HERE'S YOUR BAG.
YOU DON'T HAVE A COLD, DO YOU?
SAYAMA MAKOTO (17)

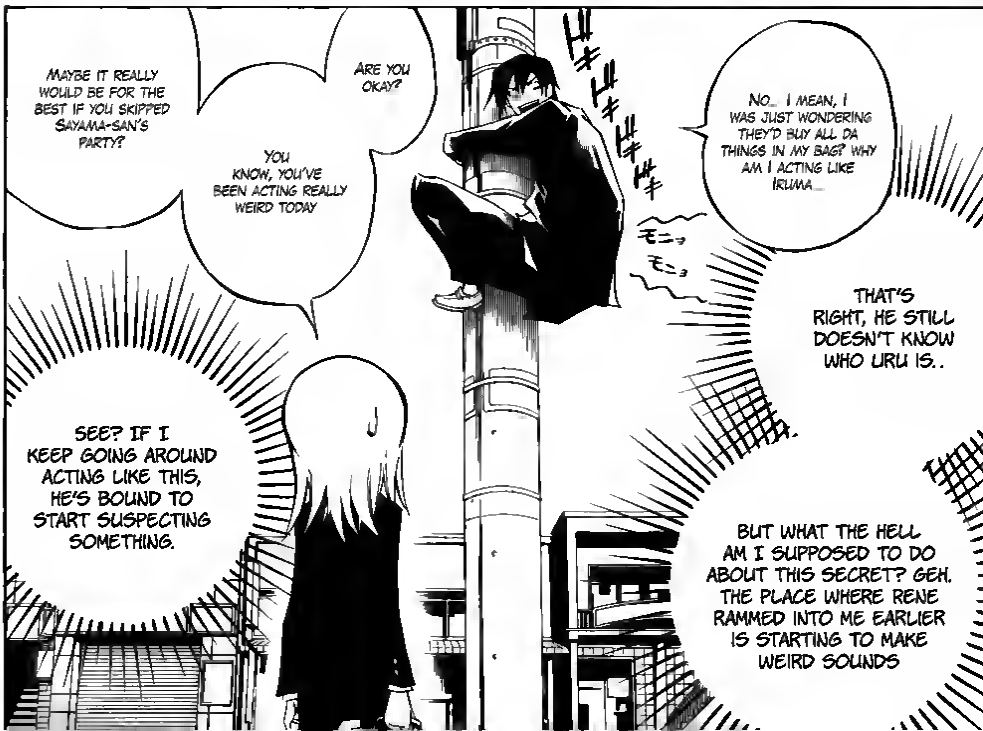
SA-SAYAMA-SAN!!!
GOD! SHE'S SUPER CUTE TODAY, JUST LIKE ALWAYS!
WAIT, THAT'S WHAT I WAS TRYING TO--
NO NO I'M DEFINITELY GOING. I'M ALWAYS JUST A LITTLE OUT OF IT RIGHT AFTER I WAKE UP
THIS IS EXACTLY LIKE WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY!
IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME TO THE PARTY TONIGHT
YOU'RE SO WEIRD.
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE!?
BUT IF TODAY'S REALLY SAYAMA-SAN'S BIRTHDAY, THEN IT HAS TO BE...
BUT I'LL BE REALLY HAPPY IF YOU DO END UP COMING.
I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR PRESENT.
WHY HAVE I
RETURNED TO YESTERDAY?!

古美術・刀剣
国分堂
WAH!
AH, THE PRESENT!!?

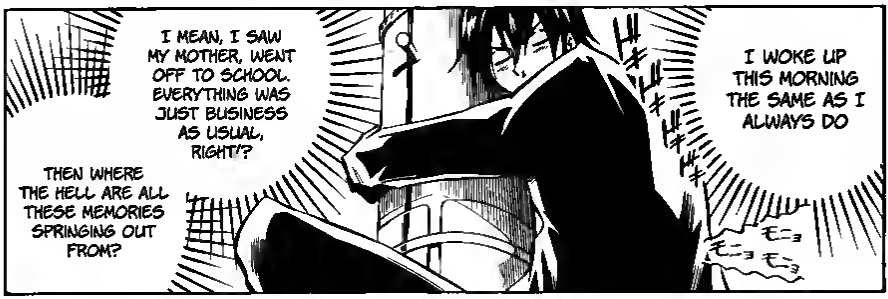
THIS ANTIQUE SHOP...
古美術・刀剣
国分堂
KOKUBUN-DOU...

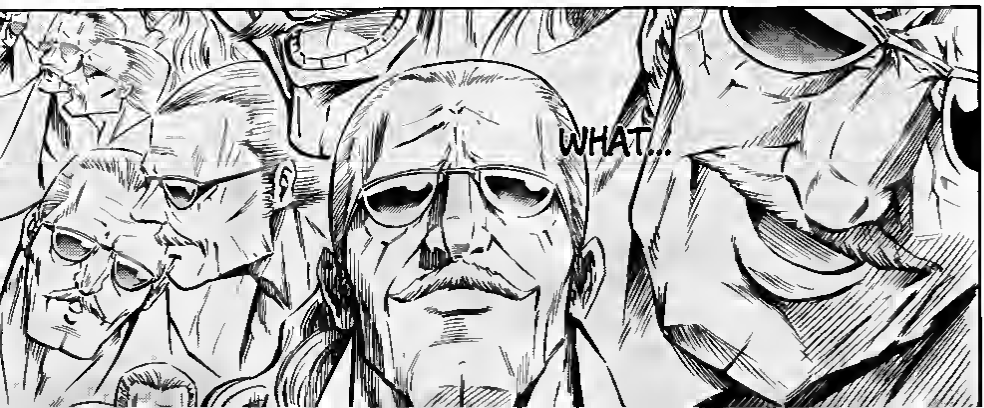
ULTIMO.
THEN THIS MEANS THAT INSIDE...

UWAH, RENE!!!
ULTIMO?


MAYBE IT REALLY WOULD BE FOR THE BEST IF YOU SKIPPED SAYAMA-SAN'S PARTY?
ARE YOU OKAY?
YOU KNOW, YOU'VE BEEN ACTING REALLY WEIRD TODAY
NO... I MEAN, I WAS JUST WONDERING THEY'D BUY ALL DA THINGS IN MY BAG? WHY AM I ACTING LIKE IRUMA...
THAT'S RIGHT, HE STILL DOESN'T KNOW WHO URU IS..
SEE? IF I KEEP GOING AROUND ACTING LIKE THIS, HE'S BOUND TO START SUSPECTING SOMETHING.
BUT WHAT THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT THIS SECRET? GEH. THE PLACE WHERE RENE RAMMED INTO ME EARLIER IS STARTING TO MAKE WEIRD SOUNDS

NO, HOLD ON IT'S ALL PROBABLY JUST SOME KIND OF WEIRD AWARENESS THING HE HAS GOING ON.
WAIT. WHY IS RENE EVEN LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT!?
?


I MEAN, I SAW MY MOTHER, WENT OFF TO SCHOOL. EVERYTHING WAS JUST BUSINESS AS USUAL, RIGHT!?
THEN WHERE THE HELL ARE ALL THESE MEMORIES SPRINGING OUT FROM?
I WOKE UP THIS MORNING THE SAME AS I ALWAYS DO
ハキ ハキ ハキ ハキ
モニョ モニョ


WHAT...

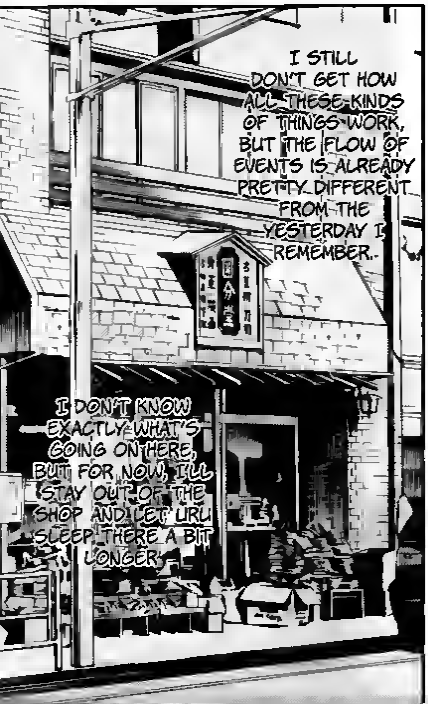
WHAT THE HELL IS WITH ALL THESE FREAKY MEMORIES .....!!?

AND THEN THE EARTH WILL BE...!!!

THAT'S RIGHT...
IF I ENTER THE ANTIQUE SHOP AND HE REALLY IS IN THERE,
THEN ONCE I GET CLOSE TO HIM, HE'LL AWAKEN,

MORNIN', YAMATO, STILL ACTING LIKE AN IDIOT, I SEE.
GOOD MORNING TO THE BOTH OF YOU.
YOU BOTH CERTAINLY SPEND A LOT OF TIME TOGETHER, DON'T YOU? <3
OHTAKE AKITSU (16)
I HAVE THE PEOPLE OF EARTH TO WORRY ABOUT, AND HERE I HAVE THESE TWO GIRLS HARASSING ME.
MATSUMOTO KIYOSE (17)
SO, IS THAT ELECTRIC POLE YOUR REPLACEMENT FOR SAYAMA?
HUH?
HUH?
HMM, UME ISN'T WITH YOU TWO?
UME-CHAN ALWAYS TAKES HER BICYCLE TO SCHOOL EVERY-DAY...
WHAT !!?
CRAP, IF THINGS KEEP GOING ON LIKE THIS, SHE'S GONNA GET CAUGHT UP IN THE BUS GAS EXPLOSION.

GUHAAH !!!
MORNING, YAMATO-KUN!!!
OUME HIBARU (16)


I STILL DON'T GET HOW ALL THESE KINDS OF THINGS WORK, BUT THE FLOW OF EVENTS IS ALREADY PRETTY DIFFERENT FROM THE YESTERDAY I REMEMBER.
I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING ON THERE, BUT FOR NOW, I'LL STAY OUT OF THE SHOP AND LET URU SLEEP THERE A BIT LONGER.

HEY, WHAT'S THIS BUS GAS EXPLOSION THING!?
IT SOUNDS REALLY INTERESTING!

THAT'S RIGHT,
YOU BITCH..
TSUN TSUN TSUN

ANYHOW, AT LEAST THE OLD SCHOOL'S BACK TO NORMAL NOW.
I'LL HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO HIM LATER, BUT UNTIL I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, HE'S JUST GONNA HAVE TO WA
ALL MY CLASSMATES, TOO.
MOST IMPORTANTLY THOUGH, THAT SUPER CUTE BIRTHDAY GIRL, SAYAMA-SAN IS...!!!
AND EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE A FEW PROBLEMS, EVEN MY FRIEND'S BACK TO NORMAL TOO.
246

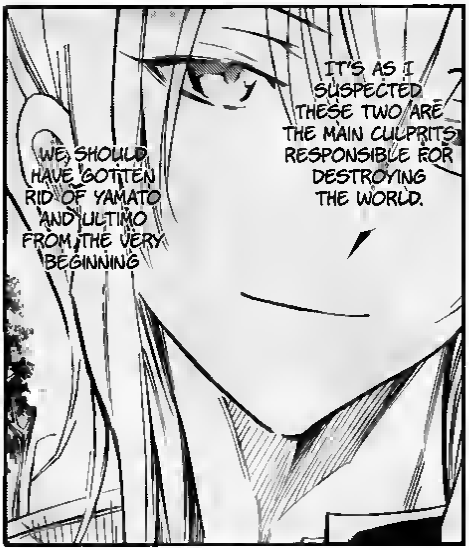
GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE.
ガラガラ
EVEN THE TEACHER'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS!
FROM TODAY ON, WE WILL BE HAVING A NEW STUDENT IN OUR CLASS.
I KNOW IT'S SUDDEN AND ALL, BUT,
YEP, EVEN THE SAME OLD TRANSFER STUDENT AS ALWAYS TOO....
MAN! IT'S ABSOLUTELY AMAZING TO HAVE EVERYONE BACK!!!
ﾊﾟｼｬｰﾝ

Now then, Murayama, please introduce yourself to the class.
Due to some family circumstances, he has moved into this town. So, everyone, please welcome Murayama Musashi-kun.

I'VE COME HERE FROM THE FUTURE.
BUT PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL ME MUSASHI.
MURAYAMA-KUN (16)

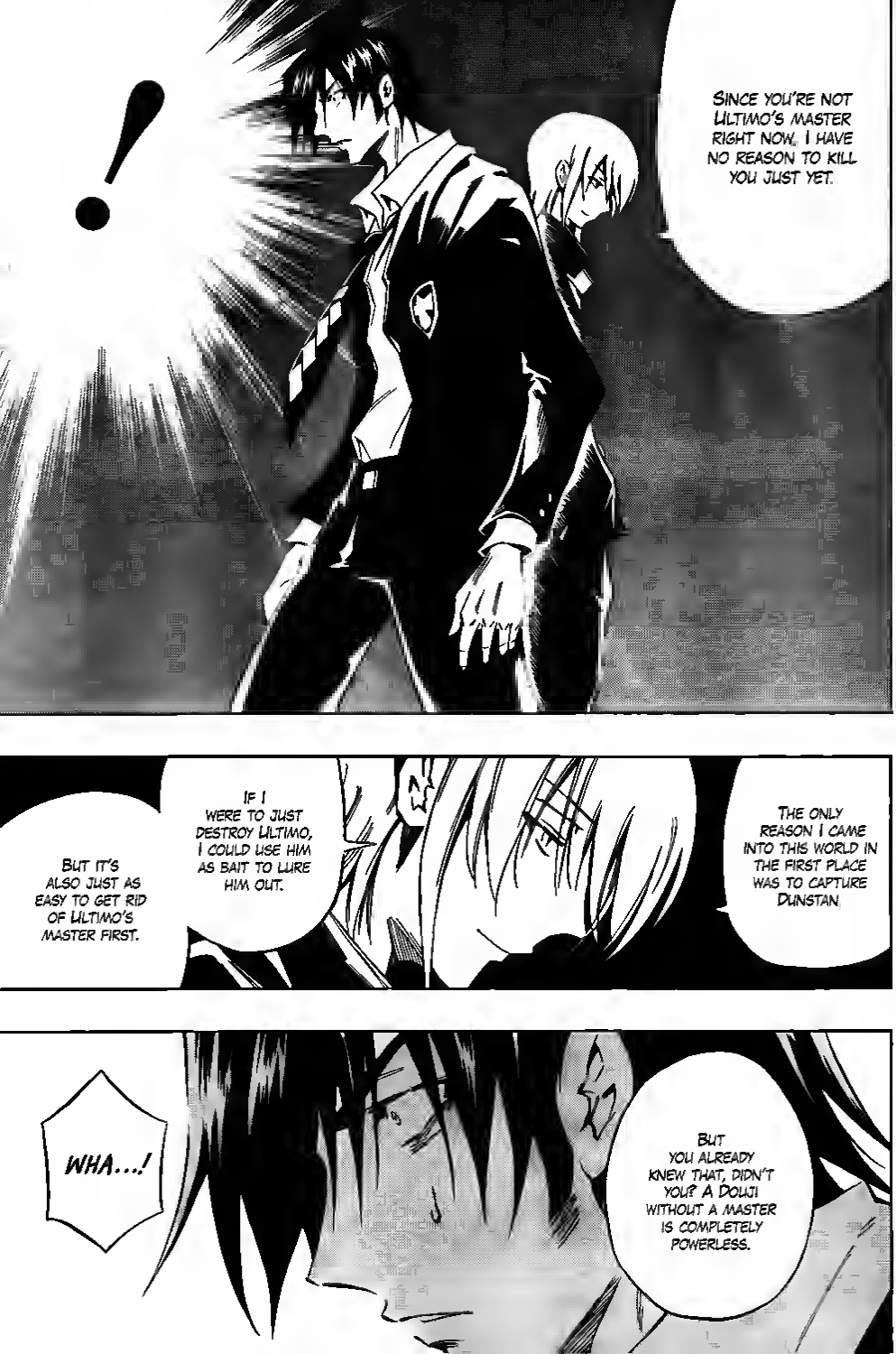
MURAYAMA-KUN!!!

NO, HIM BEING "POPULAR" ISN'T RELEVANT HERE!!!


IT'S AS I SUSPECTED THESE TWO ARE THE MAIN CULPRITS RESPONSIBLE FOR DESTROYING THE WORLD.
WE SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN RID OF YAMATO AND ULTIMO FROM THE VERY BEGINNING

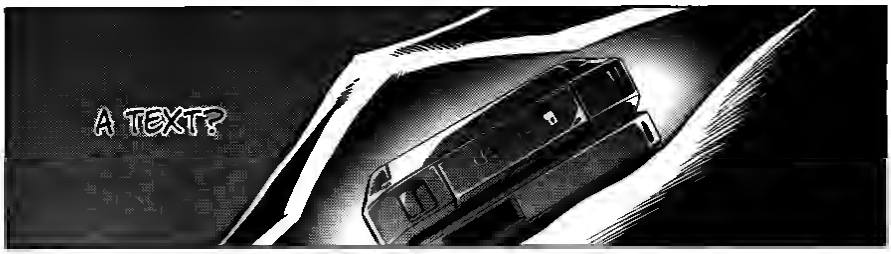
DON'T TELL ME HE'S HERE TO KILL ME!
HE...

HE'S SOOOOO POPULAR!
YOU HAVE SUCH AN AMAZING STYLE!
THE FUTURE, HUH? THAT'S SO COOL!
SO, WHAT SCHOOL IS THAT UNIFORM FROM? <3
ガーン

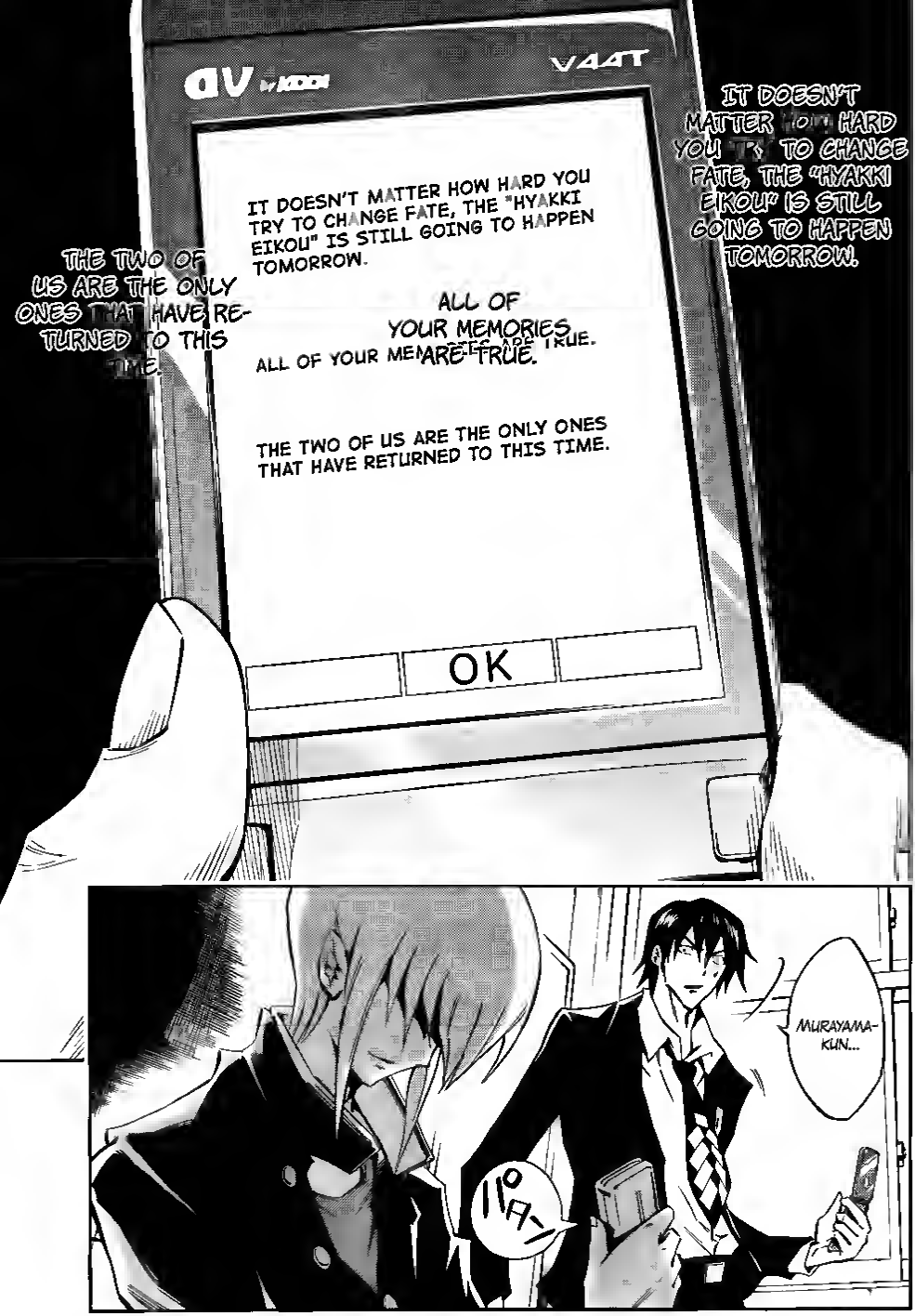

!
SINCE YOU'RE NOT ULTIMO'S MASTER RIGHT NOW, I HAVE NO REASON TO KILL YOU JUST YET.
THE ONLY REASON I CAME INTO THIS WORLD IN THE FIRST PLACE WAS TO CAPTURE DUNSTAN.
IF I WERE TO JUST DESTROY ULTIMO, I COULD USE HIM AS BAIT TO LURE HIM OUT.
BUT IT'S ALSO JUST AS EASY TO GET RID OF ULTIMO'S MASTER FIRST.
WHA...!
BUT YOU ALREADY KNEW THAT, DIDN'T YOU? A DOUJI WITHOUT A MASTER IS COMPLETELY POWERLESS.

HAH?
デロデロデロデロデロデロ

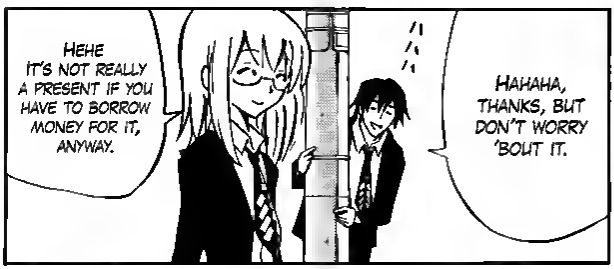
HE'S SITTING NEXT TO ME!!!
ガーン
BUT NO MATTER. THIS ISN'T REALLY THE SORT OF PLACE TO DISCUSS SUCH THINGS ANYWAY
カリタ


A TEXT?

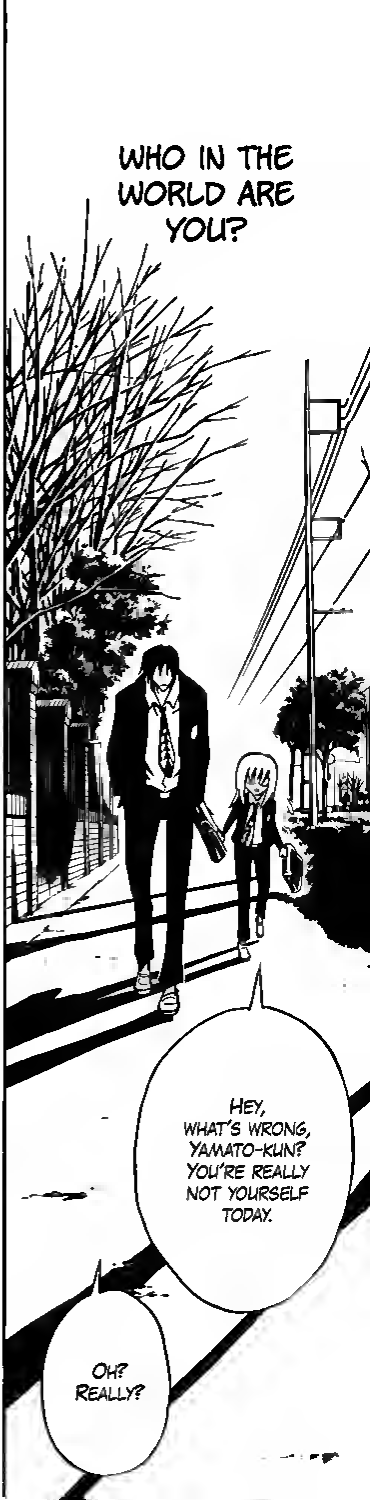
NIIU
NO SUBJECT
30th boy
…!!!


IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY TO CHANGE FATE, THE "HYAKKI EIKOU" IS STILL GOING TO HAPPEN TOMORROW.
ALL OF YOUR MEMORIES ARE TRUE.
THE TWO OF US ARE THE ONLY ONES THAT HAVE RETURNED TO THIS TIME.
OK
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY TO CHANGE FATE, THE "HYAKKI EIKOU" IS STILL GOING TO HAPPEN TOMORROW.
THE TWO OF US ARE THE ONLY ONES THAT HAVE RETURNED TO THIS TIME.
MURAYAMA-KUN...
HYA-

IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT NOT HAVING ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY A PRESENT, YOU CAN BORROW WHATEVER YOU NEED FROM ME, OKAY?
I DO HAVE A BIT OF SAVED UP AND ALL.


HEHE IT'S NOT REALLY A PRESENT IF YOU HAVE TO BORROW MONEY FOR IT, ANYWAY.
HAHAHA, THANKS, BUT DON'T WORRY 'BOUT IT.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT ALL OF THAT WAS TRUE
..DAMN IT,
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING THAT WAS WRITTEN IN THERE.
THAT TEXT FROM MURAYAMA-KUN,


WHO IN THE WORLD ARE YOU?
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG, YAMATO-KUN? YOU'RE REALLY NOT YOURSELF TODAY.
OH? REALLY?

MEMORY MANIPULATION AND TIME/SPACE MANIPULATION... OR RATHER, THE MEETING OF BOTH REGLA'S AND ULTIMO'S ABILITIES
THIS WORLD...
SO, IF I'M UNDERSTANDING THINGS RIGHT, MURAYAMA-KUN'S MEMORIES AND MINE WERE THE ONLY ONES TO HAVE PASSED THROUGH SPACE WHEN WE WENT BACK IN TIME
McDonald's
THROUGH THOSE RESIDUAL ENERGIES, I USED ALL MY STRENGTH AND SENT BOTH MURAYAMA-KUN AND MYSELF FLYING BACK ONE DAY BEFORE THAT TIME,
WHILE EKO-SAN, IN HIS FINAL MOMENTS, MUSTERED UP THE REST OF HIS REMAINING POWER TO WIPE EVERYONE'S MEMORIES,
AND, IN ORDER TO ACTIVATE A DOUJI'S POWERS, IT SEEMS AS THOUGH SOMETHING TIED TO "GOOD" AND "EVIL," CALLED "THE ENERGY OF LOVE AND HATE" NEEDS TO BE USED
男子トイレ
WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT, MURAYAMA-KUN?!
SO THAT WE MIGHT ALL HAVE ONE MORE CHANCE TO FIX THINGS

I DON'T GET THE MEANING OF ANY OF THIS!!!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU, AND WHAT THE HELL DO YOU MEAN BY "THE FUTURE"?!
SORRY, BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO TELL YOU ANY OF THAT.
WHAT!?
THE SITUATION IS COMPLICATED ENOUGH AS IT IS.
SO IT'S REALLY NOT WORTH TRYING TO EXPLAIN IT ALL TO YOU.
...!
PLUS, YOU'RE STILL SOMETHING OF AN OUTSIDER.

WHA...
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN MADE THE VOW WITH ULTIMO YET.
YOU'RE STILL NOT ULTIMO'S MASTER.
THE REST IS JUST LIKE I WROTE IN THE TEXT
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY TO CHANGE FATE.. THE "HYAKKI EIKOU" IS STILL GOING TO HAPPEN TOMORROW.
NO DOUBT THIS IS ALL GOING ACCORDING TO DUNSTAN'S PLAN.
HIS REAL NAME IS ROGER DUNSTAN
EVEN BY 30TH CENTURY STANDARDS, HE IS A GENIUS-LEVEL SCIENTIST. HE'S A FELON WHO'S COMMITTED TABOO BY EXPERIMENTING WITH THE DIMENSIONS.

His Douji is even more troublesome,
With the power of "Reincarnation Manipulation", Miryuu the Middle Path.
As he's a man who can manipulate even a world's very dimensions, there's nothing that's impossible for him to do.
DIE
Don't you think all this is strange?
That's the kid I saw in my vision when I made my vow with Uru!!!
Miryuu !!!

That is completely due to Miryuu's powers. It is impossible to escape them.
Humans from a long time ago, people who all look just like us, have now appeared in the present, all at the same time.
Even though I don't understand why Dunstan has gone to such lengths to make tomorrow D-Day,
tomorrow at the same time as before, the "Hyakki Eikou" will begin, and there's nothing you can do to change that.
For example, perhaps you will neglect to retrieve Ultimo today.
If that happens, Dunstan will simply travel to some other period and bring back a new master to the present time.
!!!
.. Uru has...

ANOTHER MASTER BESIDES ME?
OF COURSE. EVERYTHING YOU DO IS OF YOUR OWN WILL.
BUT IT IS A PITY ULTIMO HAS YET TO BE ACTIVATED. EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS
THIS WHERE YOU NEED TO MAKE A DECISION
KUNAI

Tell me where Ultimo is, and I'll let you go and enjoy your little party.
Don't, and once you make your pact with Ultimo again, I'll kill you both.
Of course, if you don't choose either, well, there will only be one option left now, won't there? Now then, Yamato-kun, what will you decide?

IS THAT...
...MU-
MURAYAMA-KUN...
THIS IS A GUN.
THOUGH IT MAY LOOK LIKE A NORMAL CLASSIC STYLE GUN, THIS IS A HAND RAIL-GUN.
WITH ITS OVERWHELMING RANGE AND DESTRUCTIVE FORCE, THIS IS THE GUN FROM THE FUTURE
THIS..
IS ALSO THE OBJECT IN WHICH I PLACE MY FAITH TO CAPTURE DUNSTAN WITH

IN THIS SYSTEM, THERE IS ONLY ONE IN ALL THE DIMENSIONS. THEY CANNOT EXIST IN MORE THAN ONE DIMENSION AT A TIME.
THE KARAKURI DOUJI.
WHA....!
IF I WERE TO DESTROY ULTIMO, HE WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO REVEAL HIMSELF WHEN HE COMES TO COLLECT HIM.
AND THAT IS WHERE I'LL LIE AND WAIT TO SHOOT HIM DOWN.
I'LL SKIP THE NEEDLESS DETAILS. THIS, HOWEVER, IS MY GOAL.
THAT IS A SAFEGUARD TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE BETWEEN "GOOD" AND "EVIL." SHOULD THAT BALANCE COLLAPSE, DUNSTAN WILL NEVER OBTAIN THE ANSWERS HE SEEKS
ANSWER ME NOW, YAMATO. WHERE IS ULTIMO?
IT IS YOUR OBLIGATION TO ANSWER ME.

I'M...
TRUE.
I GUESS THOSE MEMO-RIES REALLY WERE
I DON'T WANT TO SEE IT/THIS HAPPEN FOR A SECOND TIME.
IF I MAKE THAT VOW WITH URU AGAIN, HISTORY WILL REPEAT ITSELF.
YOU ARE, AFTER ALL,
THE ONE WHO DESTROYS THE WORLD.
!!!

BUT
EKO-SAN DIED, EVERY-ONE DIED.
TO ME, URU'S...
うぅ

!?
FINE, I GET IT.
MURAYAMA-KUN...!?
THE KIND OF MAN WHO SIMPLY CAN'T MAKE A DECISION.
YOU'RE
I'VE ALREADY TOLD EKO-SAN.
THAT'S WHY HE WAS ABLE TO SAVE THE WORLD.

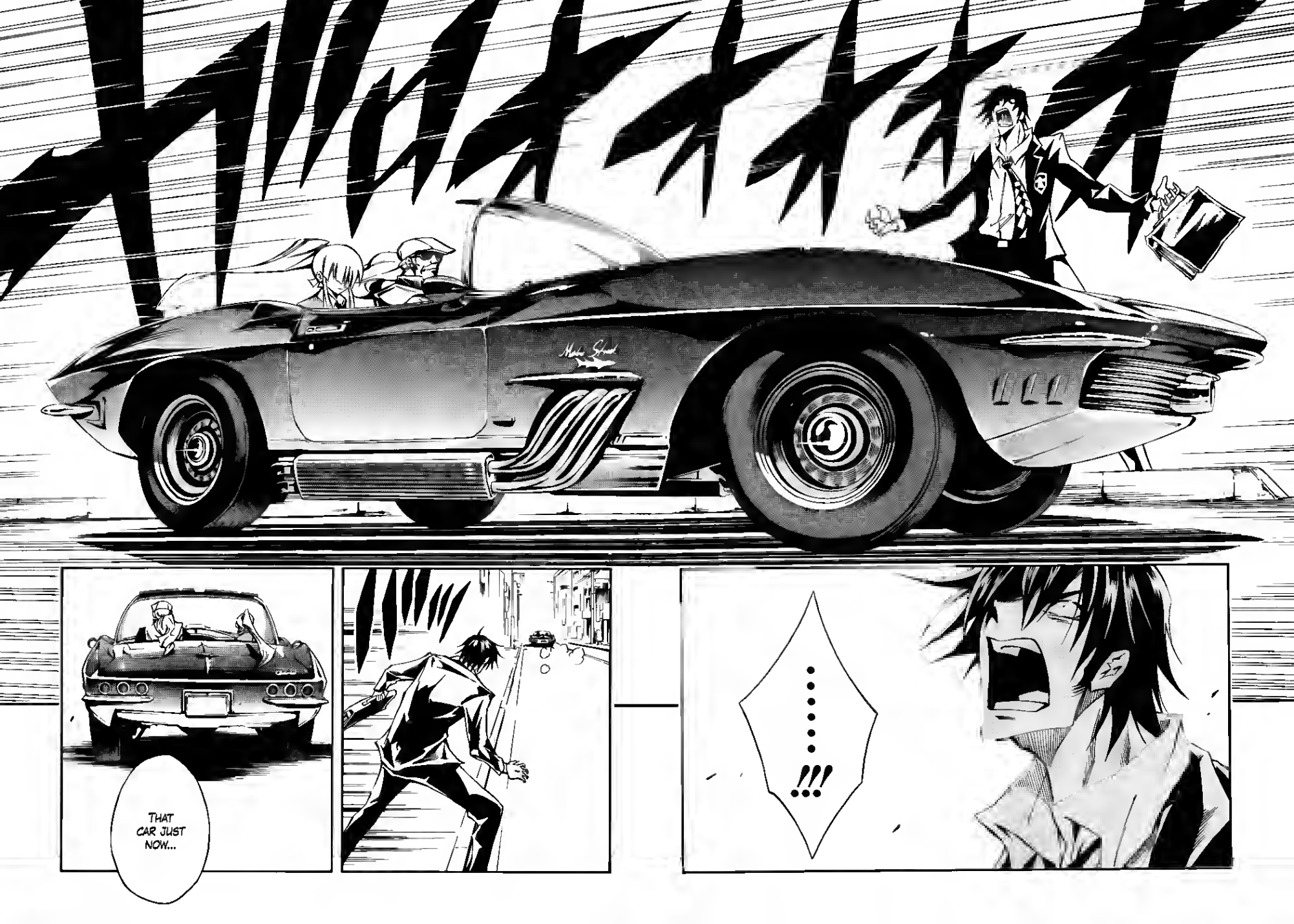
EVEN AFTER YOU HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY, IT STILL SHOULDN'T BE TOO LATE.
EVEN YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.
!
EKO-SAN DID...!?
NOT ONCE, BUT TWICE NOW, YOU'VE SAVED THIS BOY.
カチッ
I'M NOT FINISHED WITH YOU YET!
HEY, WAIT, MURAYAMA-KUN!!!
!
スッ
ココ
江古語

Yamato, if you still possess the will to fight, then, after school, go visit Eko-san.
There you should be able to discover a third option,
Though I don't think it would be a very pragmatic choice.
Oh, and don't forget,
I don't plan on making the same mistakes twice.
.....
What a lonely burden you must shoulder, Murayama-kun.

ARE YOU?
OKAY THEN, I'LL MEET YOU HERE AT 6 O'CLOCK
WHO IN THE WORLD...
SEE YA LATER!
NOT THAT YOU WILL,
DON'T BE LATE NOW, YAMATO-KUN.
RENE,
SINCE THIS IS SAYAMA-SAN'S PARTY, AFTER ALL.
THOUGH I THINK HE'S HERE BECAUSE OF DUNSTAN, AS WELL.
WE HAVE A HUGE PROBLEM HERE.

EVEN AFTER LISTENING TO ALL OF THAT, I STILL HAVE NO FUCKING CLUE ABOUT WHAT TO DO.
WHAT THE HELL?!
MAAANN,
SHOULD I DO WHAT'S BEST TO SAVE THE WORLD? OR SHOULD I STAND MY GROUND AND FIGHT?
THIS IS IMPORTANT TO ONE PERSON. THAT IS IMPORTANT TO SOMEONE ELSE. BUT, WHICH IS THE DECISION I SHOULD MAKE?
HOW COULD HE HAVE DONE ALL OF THIS SINCE I MET HIM?
AND THEN, THERE'S EKO-SAN TOO.

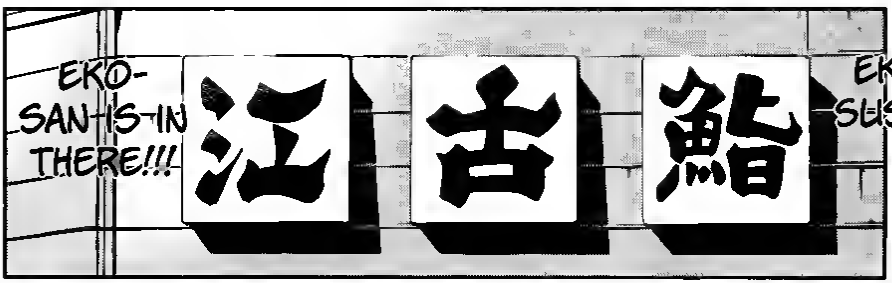
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, URU?
WHAT IN THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!!!
WHAT THE HELL...


THAT CAR JUST NOW...
.....
!!!

EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE DRESSED LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE, THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT,
IN IT, THERE WAS AN OLD MAN WHO LOOKED LIKE DUNSTAN, AND A KID WHO LOOKED LIKE MIRYUU...!
MIRYUU THE MIDDLE PATH.
THAT WAS THE KARAKURI DOUJI,

SHIT....!!!
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING, STANDING HERE AND WORRYING OVER STUPID SHIT?!
THE ENEMY IS RIGHT THERE IN FRONT OF ME! EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BEGIN AGAIN TOMORROW,
AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT!!!

江古鮨
IF I DON'T FIGHT,
THEN THERE WON'T BE ANYONE TO FIGHT IN MY PLACE!!!


EKO-SAN IS IN THERE!!!
江古鮨
EKO SUSHI.

機巧童子ULTIMO——4月号につづく。

KARAKURIDOJI ULTIMO

CHAPTER 013

TRANSLATOR

SAI THE SHAMAN

CLEANER

ZANTETSUKEN KIKIZ
IVORY

TYPESETTER

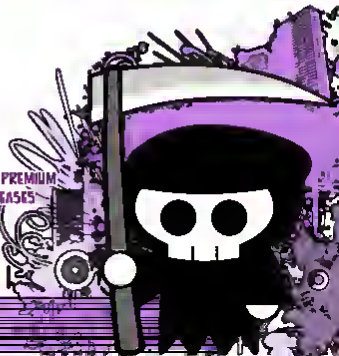
MISTER DEATH

QUALITY CHECKER

SAFFIRE

RAW PROVIDER

SAI THE SHAMAN



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